

Remarks

Claims 43, 44, 49, 54-58, and 63-69 are pending in the application. Claims 45-48, 50-53 and 59-62 are canceled. Claims 43-47, 50-54 and 57-69 stand rejected. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 48 and 49. Pursuant to this indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant has amended independent claim 43 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 48, along with the subject matter of intervening claims 44-47. All other claims have been either canceled or amended to depend from claim 43.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 43-47, 50-54, 57-62, 65-66 and 68-69 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cassford (U.S. 5,542,911).

As stated, Applicant has amended independent claim 43 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 48, along with the subject matter of intervening claims 44-47. All other claims have been either canceled or amended to depend from claim 43.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 43-47, 50-54, 57-62, 65-66 and 68-69 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 63 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cassford in view of Kenny (U.S. 6,064,912).

Applicant has amended independent claim 43 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 48, along with the subject matter of intervening claims 44-47. Claim 63 depends from claim 43.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 63 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 64 and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cassford in view of Taylor (U.S. 5,277,698).

Applicant has amended independent claim 43 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 48, along with the subject matter of intervening claims 44-47. Claims 64 and 67 depend from claim 43.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 64 and 67 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

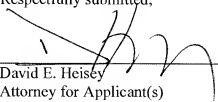
Conclusion

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-4562 referencing Docket No. 12ZH-127124. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,



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